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10 October 1963

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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DAILY BRIEF

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USSR:

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Western analysts have long pointed to the general economic malaise, particularly in the agricultural and construction programs, which has caused Soviet economic performance to fall short of regime expectations.

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It has been evident for some time that Khrushchev is planning a reallocation of resources in favor of programs which he believes will speed up the country's economic development. Such planning may well call for a reduction in the rate of growth of military expenditures. To date, however, there has been no direct evidence that the absolute size of military expenditures will be cut back.)

Conditions--both economic and military--facing Khrushchev suggest that attempts to hold down military

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(outlays will probably involve restricting the growth
of existing programs and limiting the number and
scale of new programs.)

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Honduras: The Honduran military continues to arrest those resisting the new regime amid charges that this is being done with brutality in rural areas.

Unverified reports charge the military with considerable brutality along the north coast and in rural areas where the Liberal Party has strong support. The president of the Liberal Party appealed through a Honduran employee of the US Embassy in Tegucigalpa for US help in persuading the military to stop its allegedly repressive actions.

[redacted] Communists and die-hard Liberals plan to create further instability by spreading rumors and instigating acts of sabotage and violence. The government hopes to arrest the individuals suspected of being involved before this plan becomes effective.

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Brazil: President Goulart suffered two serious setbacks this week--the overwhelming opposition to his request for a state of siege which forced him to withdraw his request, and the congressional vote against his agrarian reform constitutional amendment.

Goulart's backtracking in the face of the congressional opposition to his request for a state of siege represents a serious blow to his relations with congress. The floor leader of his own Labor Party is being replaced as a result of his open opposition to the request.

The US Embassy in Brasilia comments that Goulart's government coalition is in serious danger of dissolution with the larger Social Democratic Party (PSD) agreeing to meet on 14 October to discuss breaking with Goulart. Only 11 of the 120 PSD deputies supported Goulart's agrarian reform amendment.

The embassy also comments that congressional sentiment for impeaching Goulart has been considerably strengthened by recent events, although perhaps not to the point of posing an immediate threat to him.

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Pro-Communist Miguel Arraes, governor of Pernambuco, has already publicly proclaimed

Goulart's action as a "victory for the progressive forces."

Adding to Goulart's woes is dissatisfaction in the military establishment over War Minister Ribeiro's handling of the request for the state of siege.

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